Faculty Spotlight:
Jim Piecuch
Associate Professor of History

In between his various history writing projects, Dr. Jim Piecuch completed a historical novel titled *Tim Cratchit’s Christmas Carol: The Sequel to the Celebrated Dickens Classic*, which will be released as an e-book by Simon and Schuster in November. As the novel was wending its way through the editorial process, Dr. Piecuch started working on another history book, a study of British and Loyalist leadership in Revolutionary South Carolina. His research for this project has uncovered a lot of fascinating material, much of which has never been used in previous studies of the American Revolution. The book is under contract with the University of Oklahoma Press, with hopes of finishing the manuscript next summer. Previous publications include *The Battle of Camden: A Documentary History* (2006), *Three Peoples, One King: Loyalists, Indians and Slaves in the Revolutionary South* (2008), “Cool Deliberate Courage”: John Eager Howard in the American Revolution (2009), and “The Blood Be Upon Your Head”: Tarleton and the Myth of Buford’s Massacre (2010).

During the Spring 2015 semester, Dr. Piecuch will be teaching a course in the MA Program in American Studies - AMST 7520: Native Americans in an Age of Imperial Conflict. Students will be looking at the major role that Natives played as the major European powers and later, the United States of America, battled for dominance in North America from the late seventeenth century to 1815.

Those interested in staying informed regarding Dr. Piecuch’s various writing projects, lectures, and other events can find more information at his personal website: www.jimpiecuch.com.

**Important Dates**

- **November 1:** Last Day to Petition to Graduate in Spring 2015
- **November 1:** KSU Clandenin Scholars Application Opens - $15,000 Scholarship!
- **November 3-December 18:** Early Registration for Spring 2015
- **November 18:** MAST Open House - RSVP to Jade Hill at jh17195@kennesaw.edu
- **November 19:** AMSTO Transnational Potluck
- **December 1:** Final Deadline for Spring 2015 MAST Applications
- **December 3:** AMSTO White Elephant Holiday Party
- **December 15:** Wine and Cheese Reception
- **December 16:** Fall 2014 Graduation - Congratulations Fall 2014 Graduates!
- **December 22-January 4:** University Closed
- **January 5-6:** Final Registration for Spring 2015
Spring 2015 Course Descriptions

AMST 7100: American Studies Methods
Dr. Rebecca Hill – Tuesdays – 6:30-9:15 PM – CRN# 10643
The methods course introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. The course focuses on evolving research practices used for working in American Studies. In this class, students will grapple with the concept of interdisciplinarity, examine the values of a variety of disciplinary methods and think consciously about which methods make the most sense for their own particular areas of interest within the field of American Studies. Students will read works emphasizing methods of historical research, visual culture analysis, ethnography, literary criticism, as well as wholly interdisciplinary projects. While critiquing notable examples from the field, and working on their own research projects, students will also consider various professional contexts for “doing” American Studies. Students will choose a general topic or subject for a research project at the beginning of the semester and “try out” different methods of scholarship on that subject throughout the semester, producing a final project using at least two disciplinary methodologies.

AMST 7240: Enterprise and Labor in American Culture – The Railroad
Dr. Linda Niemann – Wednesdays – 6:30-9:15 PM – CRN# 10649
Abraham Lincoln was a railroad lawyer, arguing the manifest destiny rights of an east-west current of travel across the Mississippi. The real John Henry was short and from New Jersey. William S. Burroughs stole literary characters from the railroad hobo writer, Jack Black. The North American railroad was the embodiment of Manifest Destiny. Its technology created the country we live in today. Along the way, it became many things to many people: employment, mobility, a symbol of ruthless power, opportunity, connection, and genocide. We will look at both what the railroad was and what it became as it was transformed by art, photography, literature, folklore, and music. In particular, we will focus on the transcontinental movement, its effect on the development of the west, on labor, and on American cultures: African American, indigenous, migratory labor, immigrant, and hobo. We will also examine the railroad as it is represented in photography, music, literature, graffiti art, and the sport of “catching out.” The railroad as a distinct subculture will be read through the lens of former workers who wrote about it or photographed it.

AMST 7420: Pop Culture – S(t)imulations: Cyberculture & Media Convergence
Dr. Larrie Dudenhoefer – Thursdays – 6:30-9:15 PM – CRN# 10652
Henry Jenkins defines media convergence as “the flow of content across multiple media platforms, the cooperation between multiple media industries, and the migratory behavior of media audiences who will go almost anywhere in search of the kinds of entertainment experiences they want.” The diffusion of electronic devices, such as iPhones, e-readers, and GPS navigators, into our social and material spaces; the radicalization of television through streaming and downloadable content; and the conversion in cinema chains to 2K, 4K, and Real 3D digital projection systems altogether mark a moment of transition in our media experience, a moment as notable as the introduction of television to American mass markets in the 1950s or the invention of the “talkies” that saw to the decline of the silent film era in the 1920s. This course will ask serious questions about the effects of digitization, technological convergence, and developments in cybernetics on American culture, its favorite forms of entertainment, and its common representational strategies concerning race, gender, sexuality, and nationality. It will explore the work of such theorists as Marshall McLuhan, Laura Mulvey, and Jean Baudrillard, as well as the ways they can assist us in making sense of such recent American films as Spike Jonze’s Her, David Fincher’s The Social Network, and Michael Bay’s Transformers.

AMST 7520: America in Transnational Context – Native Americans in an Age of Imperial Conflict
Dr. Jim Piecuch – Mondays – 6:30 - 9:15 PM – CRN# 10660
From the late seventeenth century until the early nineteenth century, North America became the arena as France, Spain, Britain, and later the United States, competed for imperial control of the continent. In the midst of this contest, the Native American nations struggled to maintain their own independence and culture. This course examines the Natives’ role in the European contest for empire in North America, including their diplomacy with one another and the Europeans, their participation in the colonial wars, and their successes and failures. European and US policies toward the Natives and the motivations behind them will also be covered.

AMST 7700: Practicum – Internship or Applied Research Project (CRN# 10674)
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of MA Director Required

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (CRN# 10681/15980 or CRN# 10686/15996)
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of MA Director Required

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience Now Online!
Good news! All MA students who are ready to take AMST 7900: Capstone Experience now have the option of taking the capstone as an online course! As of Spring 2015, students will see two new sections of capstone listed as AMST 7900/W01 and AMST 7900/W02.

To register for the capstone as an online course, students will still need permission from the MA Program Director and the Capstone Forms that must be submitted prior to registration. Students will also need the consent of each committee member to teach the course online. The course requires that faculty are comfortable with technology and online communication, so not all faculty may be interested in advising an online capstone.

The main difference between enrolling in AMST 7900 as an in-person class versus doing it online is that instead of having in-person meetings with your committee, you can have all your meetings using online web-conferencing tools or by telephone conference call or Skype. This includes the capstone defense, which is set up to be done online in the online version of Capstone II. If students want to have in-person meetings, this is still an option, just as the student could if he or she were taking any other online course at KSU. This option is open to students who are just starting the AMST 7900 sequence, as well as those who have already completed one semester of the thesis or project.

There are many advantages to completing the online course, particularly if a student has completed all other required course work, lives far away from the university, and/or needs to move out of town. Those interested in learning more about the differences in students fees and course tuition should talk to Jade Hill about this new and exciting AMST 7900 option.

NOVEMBER OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Social Sciences Atrium, Kennesaw State University